



# Community Partnerships for Self-Reliance

## Background

CPS was established as a joint effort between the Alaska Native Science Commission and the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2012 as an interdisciplinary bridging program that connects rural Alaska communities with technical expertise that can support their vision of self-reliance.



Alexana in the Iguigig greenhouse.  
Photo credit: Chapin.



Koyukuk underwater after the 2006 flood. Photo credit: Pilot

## What We Learned

The importance of cultural integrity for long term self-reliance and sustainability.

Barriers to long term self-reliance commonly identified were:

- High cost of energy
- Impacts of flooding and erosion on community infrastructure
- The growing difficulty of harvesting enough food from the land and sea to maintain a nutritionally and culturally strong connection to the land



Spring break-up in Newtok.  
Photo Credit: Chapin



Wood gathering in Nikolai.  
Photo Credit: Knapp

## What we strive for

CPS is a boundary organization that strives for;

- Facilitating discussion with community partners
- Provide access to technical advice
- Creating venues where shared learning occurs among community, academic, and agency partners



Fairbanks workshop with community partners.  
Photo Credit: Knapp



Community workshop in Iguigig.  
Photo credit: Chapin

## How the ABoVE science initiative might benefit our partners

A better understanding of the impacts of environmental change on the accessibility of important species used for traditional hunting and gathering.

Models of how river and costal erosion might impact vulnerable community infrastructure.

